Parable - Original Works for Brass Quintet

aud 92.525

EAN: 4022143925251

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Gramophone (Jonathan Freeman-Attwood - 2006.02.01)

GRAMOPHONE

A luminous disc of brass quintet classics proves a revelation

The quintet medium has never quite established itself as the solid-state default for composers wishing to write for brass but it's as close as it gets. The majority of works here were inspired by the great American brass tradition and more often than not they are still performed indigenously. So to hear the Munich Brass Quintet (principal players of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra) revel in the canny, incisive and easy vernacular of Cheetham, Previn and Bernstein is quite a revelation.

In this beautifully luminous surround-sound recording one can also appreciate the meticulous attention to dynamics, voicing and timbral depth which these refined German players bring to the probing discourse of Persichetti's Parable and Kerry Turner's Richochet from 1994. The latter is a delightful Texan frolic, about as far as you can get from a Bavarian musical landscape, but the musicians find compelling solutions and Turner writes brilliantly for brass, irrespective of dialect. An admirable addition for brass aficionados.

»audite« Ludger Böckenhoff • Tel.: +49 (0)5231-870320 • Fax: +49 (0)5231-870321 • info@audite.de • www.audite.de